

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00368 130942Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 DHA-02 OPR-02 A-01

SY-05 SCCT-01 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /099 W

----- 071358

O R 130917Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8093

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0368

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE, WITH FIGHTING CONTINUING AND/OR ERUPTING IN THE BEKAA, THE NORTH AND NOW IN THE SHOUF. CONFESSIONAL LINES BEING DRAWN MORE CLEARLY AND I CANNOT SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT SITUATION AND CIVIL WAR.

2. IN BEIRUT, TEL ZAATAR SEIGE CONTINUES. MOSLEMS YESTERDAY OCCUPIED TWO KEY BRIDGES JUST SOUTHEAST OF QARANTINA, ONE CALLED CHARLES HELOU AND THE OTHER CALLED THE RIVER BRIDGE. THEY CONTINUE HOLDING HELOU BRIDGE BUT RIVER BRIDGE, WHICH ABUTS ON ARMENIAN SECTOR CALLED BOURJ HAMMOUD, IS NOW UNDER ARMENIAN CONTROL. NOTWITHSTANDING FOREGOING, IT STILL SEEMS TO BE POLITICS AS USUAL. CHAMOUN'S LATEST AGAINST SAEB SALAAM IS THAT HE WAS HIT IN THE HEAD IN 1953 BY A GENDARME AND HASN'T THOUGHT SINCE. SEIZURE OF ARMY VEHICLES STILL BEING DISCUSSED
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WITH JUMBLATT, WHO IS ALLEGING TONY FRANGIE STILL HAS

NINE ARMORED VEHICLES TAKEN FROM ARMY DURING ZAGHORTA FIGHTING.

3. KARAME MET WITH LEFT YESTERDAY AND WAS ASKED NOT REPEAT NOT TO TAKE INITIATIVE WITHOUT CONSULTING LEFT. SUMMIT MEETING YESTERDAY OF REPS ALL CHRISTIANS AT BAABDA IN REPOSE RECENT MOSLEM SUMMIT.

4. EMBASSY VEHICLE TAKEN BY LARGE NUMBER OF ARMED MEN. OPERATION OBSERVED BY SECURITY OFFICER, WHO COULD DO NOTHING. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, FRIENDLY ELEMENTS BY THE MOSCQUE AREA IN AIN MREISSE, RECOGNIZED VEHICLE AND TOLD THIEVES TO RETURN IT, WHICH THEY DID.

5. NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES. WE ARE TRYING TO TAKE CENSUS OF AMERICANS STILL IN THE LEBANON AND L'ORIENT LE JOUR AND AN-NAHAR HAVE CARRIED FOR LAST THREE DAYS ADVERTISEMENT ASKING AMERICANS TO REGISTER, OR IF THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, TO REREGISTER BY PHONE. SIMILAR ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY OTHER MISSIONS HERE.
GODLEY

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NNN

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